

IN THE SPECIFICATION

On page 4, please replace the paragraph beginning at line 6 with the following paragraph:

A method for identifying a  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blocker in accordance with the present invention generally includes providing a cell containing a  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blocker. The channel blocker ~~demonstrated~~demonstrates both a transient and a persistent current. The cell includes a potassium ( $\text{K}$ ) channel and a  $\text{Na}/\text{K}$  AtPase ( $\text{Na}^+$  pump). A fluorescent dye is disposed into the well. The fluorescent dye is sensitive to change in cell membrane potential in order to enable optical measurement of cell membrane potential. A  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blocker, to be assayed, screened or otherwise identified, is added to the well and a stimulation current is passed through the cell in an amount sufficient to generate an action potential before and after the addition of the  $\text{Na}^+$  channel blocker. Thereafter, a change in cell membrane potential is optically measured.